

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 10, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-21 remain in this application, where claim 3 had been previously canceled without prejudice and claims 16-21 had been previously added. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 4-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,670,765 (Muto) Muto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,208 (Karpen). It is noted that there is no substantive rejections of claims 16-21 and thus it is believed that claims 16-21 should be allowable. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2 and 4-21 are patentable over Muto and Karpen for at least the following reasons.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Muto and Karpen, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 9 where, amongst other patentable elements, claim 1 recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

outer bulb comprising glass doped with cerium oxide.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4-8 and 10-21 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 9.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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